



Fact Sheet: Georgia Medicaid Coverage of Sexual and Reproductive Health

This fact sheet will discuss the sexual and reproductive health services covered by Medicaid in Georgia. It is the first installment of a series of fact sheets that aims to educate Southern advocates about Medicaid's important coverage such as STI testing and treatment, pregnancy care, certain cancer screenings, contraceptive services, and more. Georgia is the first of five states to be highlighted in this series.

INTRODUCTION

Georgia struggles with a high rate of maternal mortality cases and maternal health inequity.¹ The state has experienced one of the highest rates of rural hospital closures in the country, making maternal care particularly sparse.² Of the 159 counties in Georgia, 93 do not have a hospital with a labor and delivery unit, and 75 counties lack a practicing obstetrician–gynecologist or nurse-midwife.³

Students are mandated to learn about sexual education as well as HIV education, but the information is not required to be medically accurate and abstinence is required to be stressed.⁴ Schools are not required to cover consent or information about

¹ Natalie Hernandez et al., *Maternal health equity in Georgia: a Delphi consensus approach to definition and research priorities*, 23 BMC PUB. HEALTH 1, 2 (2023).

² Anthony J. Kondracki et al., *Pregnancy-related maternal mortality in the state of Georgia: Timing and causes of death*, 20 WOMENS HEALTH (LOND) 1, 2 (Jul. 25, 2024).

³ Anthony J. Kondracki et al., *Pregnancy-related maternal mortality in the state of Georgia: Timing and causes of death*, 20 WOMENS HEALTH (LOND) 1, 2 (Jul. 25, 2024).

⁴ Fairbanks, M., *State Laws and Policies: Sex Education and HIV Education*, Guttmacher Institute (Sept. 16, 2025)

<https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/sex-and-hiv-education>.

contraception care.⁵ Sexually transmitted infections are also high in the state: per 100,000 people, there were 75.3 reported cases of syphilis, 274.8 cases of gonorrhea, and 646.4 cases of chlamydia.⁶ Additionally, Georgia has very limited access to abortion care. Abortions can only be obtained in the state within the first six weeks of pregnancy, making it almost impossible to seek abortion care.⁷

I. GEORGIA MEDICAID

The Georgia Department of Community Health (“DCH”) oversees the state Medicaid program and manages the three Care Management Organizations (“CMOs”) responsible for delivering Medicaid services to enrollees.⁸ While Georgia has not expanded Medicaid, the state has implemented other programs to reach a larger population. In 2023, Georgia began implementing its Section 1115 Pathways to Coverage waiver, which is not a full Medicaid expansion because it imposes work requirements and does not qualify for enhanced matching funds, but does give Georgia the authority to extend Medicaid coverage to 100% FPL and childless adults.⁹ The Pathways to Coverage waiver is up for renewal in 2025 with some changes including allowing parents/caretakers of children up to age six (in households at or below 100% FPL) to receive Medicaid coverage without work requirements.¹⁰¹¹

⁵ Fairbanks, M., *State Laws and Policies: Sex Education and HIV Education*, Guttmacher Institute (Sept. 16, 2025)

<https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/sex-and-hiv-education>.

⁶ U.S. Ctrs. Disease Control & Prevention, *STI Surveillance, 2023* Table 3, 19, 28 (Nov. 12, 2024),

<https://www.cdc.gov/sti-statistics/data-vis/table-syph-total-state-abc.html#toc> (compared to the national rate of 62.5).

⁷ Curhan, T., *State Laws and Policies: State Bans on Abortion Throughout Pregnancy*, Guttmacher Institute (Jul. 7, 2025),

<https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/state-policies-abortion-bans>.

⁸ GA. DEP’T CMTY. HEALTH, GEORGIA SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER EXTENSION REQUEST 6 (Jan. 21, 2025).

⁹ Kaiser Family Foundation, *Factsheet: Medicaid in Georgia* (May 2025), <https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicare-state-GA>.

¹⁰ Georgia Dept. of Community Health, *Georgia Pathways to Coverage 1115 Demonstration Waiver Extension Notice*, (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://dch.georgia.gov/announcement/2025-01-21/georgia-pathways-coverage-1115-demonstration-waiver-extension-notice>

¹¹ With the passage of H.R. 1 (119th Congress), the work requirement rules may change.

Many Georgians rely on Medicaid: 2,240,000 children and adults. Georgia Medicaid covers 45% of births in the state. Approximately 1.7 million Georgia residents are enrolled in Medicaid through Georgia Families.¹² Georgia Families provides health care services to non-disabled parents or caretakers; children; pregnant people; newborns; and children enrolled in PeachCare for Kids, which is the state's Children's Health Insurance program under Title XXI of the Social Security Act.¹³ An additional 572,000 individuals who are aged, blind, disabled, and low income are enrolled through Georgia's fee-for-service program.¹⁴

II. MEDICAID COVERAGE OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Full Scope Medicaid in Georgia covers SRH services through:

1. Doctor visits;
2. Hospital stays;
3. Emergency services;
4. Prescriptions;
5. Labs and x-rays;
6. Prenatal care and delivery services for pregnant women;
7. Services for any other medical condition that may complicate the pregnancy (other than pregnancy related and postpartum services) are provided to pregnant people;
8. Preventive and wellness services; and
9. Chronic disease management services.¹⁵

Family planning services are provided to eligible Medicaid members who wish to prevent pregnancies, plan the number of pregnancies, plan the spacing between

¹² GA. DEP'T CMTY. HEALTH, GEORGIA SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER EXTENSION REQUEST 6 (Jan. 21, 2025).

¹³ GA. DEP'T CMTY. HEALTH, GEORGIA SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER EXTENSION REQUEST 6 (Jan. 21, 2025).

¹⁴ GA. DEP'T CMTY. HEALTH, GEORGIA SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER EXTENSION REQUEST 6 (Jan. 21, 2025).

¹⁵ Georgia Medicaid, *Georgia Medicaid State Plan* (last visited Oct. 1, 2025).
<https://medicaid.georgia.gov/document/document/state-georgiamedicaid-state-plan-finalsept2025/download>.

pregnancies, or obtain confirmation of pregnancy.¹⁶ Georgia Medicaid does not provide coverage for extended supplies of contraceptives or for over-the-counter contraceptives without a prescription.¹⁷ Hysterectomies are not covered for enrollees for family planning purposes.¹⁸ The program covers treatments and services for major complications related to other covered services, such as a perforated uterus from the insertion of an intrauterine device, severe menstrual bleeding caused by a Depo-Provera injection, or complications from a tubal ligation procedure.¹⁹ In addition to full scope Medicaid, Georgia has created three additional programs for people with higher incomes seeking sexual and reproductive health services: (1) Planning for Healthy Babies (“P4HB”), (2) Pregnant Women Medicaid, and the (3) Postpartum Extension Demonstration waiver program.²⁰

A. Planning for Healthy Babies

Planning for Healthy Babies, or “P4HB”, is Georgia’s family planning 1115 Demonstration waiver program to reduce the number of low birth weight and very low birth weight (“VLBW”) births in the state.²¹ To be eligible for P4HB services, an individual must be 18 through 44 years of age, be able to become pregnant, and have a modified adjusted

¹⁶ Georgia Medicaid, *Georgia Medicaid State Plan* (last visited Oct. 1, 2025). <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/document/document/state-georgiamedicaid-state-plan-finalsept2025/download>.

¹⁷ Diep, Long, and Salganicoff, *Oral Contraceptive Pills: Access and Availability*, Kaiser Family Foundation (Mar. 20, 2024), <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/oral-contraceptive-pills-access-and-availability/>.

¹⁸ Amerigroup, Enrollee Handbook, p. 27; Ga. Dep’t Cmty. Health, State of Ga. Plan for Medical Assistance, (updated Feb. 24, 2025), available at <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/organization/about-georgia-medicaid/medicaid-state-plan>.

¹⁹ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies* 7 (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Mar. 3, 2025).

²⁰ Ga. Medicaid, *Programs*, <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs> (last visited Mar. 4, 2025).

²¹ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies* 1 (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

gross income less than or equal to 211% of the federal poverty level.²² The P4HB has three levels of coverage: (1) Family Planning Only²³, which is available to individuals who do not receive Full-Scope Medicaid because their income surpasses that program's income requirement; (2) Inter-pregnancy Care, which is available to individuals who have given birth to a VLBW baby within three years and either do not receive Medicaid or Medicare or are losing Medicaid coverage;²⁴ and (3) Resource Mother Outreach, which is available to individuals who are Medicaid enrollees and have given birth to a VLBW baby within three years.^{25 26}

Georgia family planning services and supplies are covered through the P4HB program. Under P4HB, individuals can receive family planning initial or annual exams; follow-up, brief, and comprehensive family planning visits; family planning lab tests, pregnancy tests, pap smears, pelvic exams, and colposcopies s; and family planning pharmacy visits for eligible medications.²⁷ This program also covers family planning education and counseling as well as referrals to social services and primary health care providers.²⁸

²² Ga. Dep't of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 1* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep't of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol'y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

²³ Family Planning Only services include: FDA-approved methods of contraception, STI/STD testing, pap smears and pelvic exams, lab tests done during initial family planning visit for contraception, additional screening tests depending on method of contraception desired and the protocol established, drugs, supplies, or devices related to women's health services and contraceptive management, patient education and counseling. (<https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/>)

²⁴ Individuals are eligible for [Inter-pregnancy Care](#) services for two years after each VLBW baby.

²⁵ After the two-year term, Inter-pregnancy Care enrollees will be disenrolled from Inter-pregnancy Care component of the program and enrolled in Family Planning Only component.

²⁶ Ga. Dep't of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 14* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep't of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol'y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

²⁷ Ga. Dep't of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 7-8* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep't of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol'y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

²⁸ Ga. Dep't of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 7* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep't of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health

P4HB enrollees can receive multivitamins with folic acid; folic acid vitamins; and FDA-approved contraceptive services and supplies, including tubal ligation.²⁹

Individuals enrolled in P4HB can receive covered screenings for sexually transmitted infections (“STIs”) , including HIV/AIDs and hepatitis.³⁰ P4HB covers treatment, follow-up visits, and rescreenings as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for STIs other than HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.³¹ Drugs for the treatment of vaginal and genital skin infections or disorders and urinary tract infections as well as follow-up visits for such treatment if the infection or disorder is identified or diagnosed during a routine or periodic family planning visit are also covered.³²

People enrolled in the P4HB program under Inter-pregnancy Care or Resource Mother Outreach can receive coverage for five primary care visits per year, substance use treatment, and case management services. Resource Mother services (case management services for qualifying recipients under P4HB) may include: home visits, coordination of services, referrals to community resources, and peer support/mentoring, some dental services, and prescription drugs for the treatment of chronic diseases.³³ Under Resource Mother Outreach, P4HB covers telephonic or in-person meetings

Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

²⁹ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 7* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

³⁰ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 7* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

³¹ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 7* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

³² Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 7* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

³³ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 19 - 20* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

between P4HB participants aimed at increasing the adoption of healthy behaviors, particularly healthy eating habits and smoking cessation.³⁴

B. Pregnant Women Medicaid

Pregnant Women Medicaid, or Right from the Start Medicaid (“Pregnant Women”), is available to pregnant individuals with income less than or equal to 220% of the federal poverty level.³⁵ Thanks to Georgia’s Postpartum Extension Demonstration waiver, an individual is considered pregnant “from the month of conception through the twelfth month following the termination of pregnancy, which includes live birth, still birth, miscarriage, therapeutic abortion, and elective abortion.”³⁶

Pregnant individuals in Georgia who are eligible under Pregnant Women are afforded the full range of Medicaid covered services from the month of “conception” through 12 months postpartum without deductibles, coinsurance, or copayments.³⁷ Covered services include physicians’ visits, prescription medications, labor and delivery services, and other inpatient and outpatient hospital services.³⁸ Pregnant individuals enrolled in Pregnant Women can receive perinatal case management services, one series of birthing and parenting classes each twelfth month period, tobacco cessation services, and dental services.³⁹ Pregnant Women will also cover services for medical conditions that may complicate pregnancy.⁴⁰

³⁴ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 20* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

³⁵ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Fact Sheet: Planning for Healthy Babies 20* (Sept. 2017) [hereinafter DCH, Fact Sheet]; Ga. Dep’t of Human Servs., 2186 Planning For Health Babies, Pol’y Manual Mgmt. Sys., <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2186/> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025).

³⁶ GA. CODE § 49-4-159(a)(2).

³⁷ Georgia Medicaid, *Family Medicaid*, <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/family-medicaid> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025); Ga. State Health Plan, Amerigroup Enrollee Handbook, p.54-55.

³⁸ Georgia Medicaid, *Family Medicaid*, <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/family-medicaid> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025); Ga. State Health Plan, Amerigroup Enrollee Handbook, p.54-55.

³⁹ Georgia Medicaid, *Family Medicaid*, <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/family-medicaid> (last visited Sept. 18, 2025); Ga. State Health Plan, Amerigroup Enrollee Handbook.

⁴⁰ Ga. Dep’t of Cmty. Health, *Policy and Manual Management Systems: 2184 Pregnant Women* (last visited Sept. 18, 2025) <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2184/>.

The Pregnant Women Medicaid Program covers nurse-midwife services through 60 days postpregnancy.⁴¹ This coverage includes any services provided by licensed Certified Nurse Midwives except assistance to a physician during delivery.⁴² Georgia Medicaid does not provide reimbursement for doula services.⁴³ Abortions and abortion-related services are also not covered by Georgia Medicaid.⁴⁴

C. Postpartum Extension Demonstration Waiver

Georgia's Postpartum Extension Demonstration Waiver went into effect on July 1, 2021.⁴⁵ This waiver was created by the Department of Community Health and the Department of Public Health to extend Medicaid coverage from 60 days to six months.⁴⁶ This allows for extended postpartum Medicaid coverage to women with incomes up to 220 % of the Federal Poverty Level.⁴⁷ The goal is to extend access to quality care, ensure continuity of care and facilitate care coordination during the postpregnancy period, with the ultimate goal of reducing rates of adverse outcomes in the postpartum period.⁴⁸ The waiver is effective through March 31, 2026.⁴⁹

Conclusion

⁴¹ Ga. Dep't of Cmty. Health, *Policy and Manual Management Systems: 2184 Pregnant Women* (last visited Sept. 18, 2025) <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2184/>.

⁴² Ga. Dep't of Cmty. Health, *Policy and Manual Management Systems: 2184 Pregnant Women* (last visited Sept. 18, 2025) <https://pamms.dhs.ga.gov/dfcs/medicaid/2184/>.

⁴³ March of Dimes, *2024 March of Dimes Report Card for Georgia*, March of Dimes (2024), <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/georgia/report-card>.

⁴⁴ De Liban, Duffy, Crays, and Mendoza, *Abortion Coverage Under Medicaid*, National Health Law Program (April 10, 2025), <https://healthlaw.org/resource/abortion-coverage-under-medicaid/>.

⁴⁵ GA. CODE § 49-4-159(a)(2).

⁴⁶ GA. CODE § 49-4-159(a)(2).

⁴⁷ GA. CODE § 49-4-159(a)(2).

⁴⁸ GA. Dept. of Community Health, Annual Monitoring Report, Georgia Postpartum Extension (last visited Sept. 2025) <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/document/document/postpartum-extension-revised-annual-monitoring-report-dy1/download>.

⁴⁹ GA. Dept. of Community Health, Annual Monitoring Report, Georgia Postpartum Extension (last visited Sept. 2025) <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/document/document/postpartum-extension-revised-annual-monitoring-report-dy1/download>.

This fact sheet was created to bring awareness to Georgians about their right to various sexual and reproductive health services. In addition to Full Scope Medicaid and the Pathways program, Georgia covers a wide range of these services under three additional Medicaid programs: Planning for Healthy Babies, Pregnant Women Medicaid, and the Postpartum Extension Demonstration waiver program.